

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

July 23, 2002

5:30 PM

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil, Shea, Smith

Absent: Aldermen Wihby, Lopez

Messrs: R. MacKenzie, K. Dillon, T. Fleming, S. Maranto

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Resolution and budget authorization authorizing acceptance and expenditure of federal funds in the amount of \$44,400 for FY2002 CIP 613102 Millyard Improvement Project.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve the resolution and budget authorization.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Resolution and budget authorization authorizing acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$36,932,956 for FY2002 CIP 711702 Airside Improvements Project and 711802 Equipment Replacement Project.

Alderman Smith moved to approve the resolution and budget authorization. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Mr. MacKenzie stated in discussing this with Kevin Dillon he does have some questions as to whether they can also roll in FY04 and FY05 funds. Sam Maranto is not here so I can't answer that. I think perhaps the Committee can go ahead with this resolution and that will be FY03 funds but we will get back to the Committee about FY04 and FY05.

Chairman O'Neil asked, Kevin, does it make sense to roll the other two in with it.

Mr. Dillon stated yes. This is a project that has been well underway at the airport. It is actually the runway project. Again, there is a difference in terms of how the FAA budgets versus how the City budgets. When we go with the FAA we go with a five-year plan and all of our numbers are based on a complete project over five years. The City, in terms of the CIP process, budgets year by year. We are trying to maintain some consistency between the FAA numbers and the City numbers.

Chairman O'Neil asked if we can get Finance, Planning and Airport...if you guys can do work in the next week or two we could phone poll the Committee just to include it if everybody is comfortable with that so it will be ready for the first Board meeting in August. Is that okay?

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion to approve the resolution and budget authorization. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

CIP Budget Authorizations:

2001	220201	Tobacco Prevention Project - Revision #2
2002	711802	Equipment Replacement - Revision #1
2002	712002	FBI Blower - Revision #1

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith it was voted to approve the budget authorizations.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

CIP Budget Authorization

2003	612003	MadVac Sweeper/Anti-Graffiti Program
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Alderman Shea moved to approve the budget authorization. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Shea asked does this come out of the money that is appropriated to Intown and they are just moving money from one line item to another.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that is correct. It is money appropriated for FY03.

Chairman O'Neil asked, Bob, why and I don't know who is responsible for it but we kind of had and Alderman Shea you were very involved for a number of years and it has kind of dropped off a little bit but do we have a formal graffiti program anymore.

Mr. MacKenzie answered it has died out since there was a Committee and I think the results of that are you are seeing more graffiti in the downtown.

Chairman O'Neil asked with that in mind then why would we want to commit money just for downtown when it is a Citywide issue.

Mr. MacKenzie answered probably 80% of the problem is downtown but there are issues outside the downtown that we could look at.

Chairman O'Neil replied that is a high number to say that 80% of the graffiti is downtown.

Mr. MacKenzie responded if you look in the alleys and all the other places downtown...

Chairman O'Neil interjected it is on bridge abutments all over the City. It is in parks and on schools. That is a high number. My point is should we be looking at a Citywide program. Alderman Shea, I know you worked a long time on this.

Alderman Shea stated I think some money was set aside. I am not sure but I think I had about \$10,000 at one time because I recall making a comment when Alderman Girard said how can you ask for \$10,000 and I said that is all I could get. However, in checking with Kevin I think that money has since been moved into some other account. I am not sure. I don't think it still exists.

Mr. MacKenzie replied I think most of that has been utilized. I think Sam is out in the hall and he may be able to answer that but I think it was utilized over a couple of years. To go Citywide we would need more money.

Chairman O'Neil stated but why duplicate. If we are going to do just downtown through Intown and then if we do get moving on graffiti in other parts of the City we are creating two different programs. Why not have one program for the City?

Mr. MacKenzie replied we can certainly do it. I agree that it has become a much more important problem.

Chairman O'Neil stated I respectfully disagree with you that 80% of it is downtown unless you are calling Mammoth and Hanover downtown. Do you want to move forward or can we table it to get a better handle on this?

Alderman Shea replied I would like to approve this because obviously there is a need for this downtown. There is no question. The money that they are using is Intown money. It is not money that is coming out of any fund we have. On the other matter, I think that probably it would be necessary to...

Chairman O'Neil interjected get the Committee going again.

Alderman Shea stated I think David Scannell is working on that.

Chairman O'Neil replied I will talk to David about that.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I would suggest that it is a growing problem again and this money would probably go pretty quickly just because of all the problems we do have downtown. I would like to see another Committee formed and Alderman Shea was on it before. We would just have to find the money to go City wide.

Alderman Shea stated I would say we would have to spend between \$10,000 and \$20,000 on a program.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion to approve the budget authorization. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

On motion of Alderman Smith duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil it was voted to re-establish the Anti-Graffiti Committee. As Chairman of the Board, Alderman O'Neil named Alderman Shea Chairman of the Committee and asked for a list of previous Committee members.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from Robert MacKenzie, Director of Planning, relative to a request for consideration for relief from further payments of a Housing Rehabilitation Loan.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I am going to defer this to Todd Fleming to explain it a little bit more so you are clear as to what is going on.

Mr. Fleming stated basically this is an individual who received a loan from Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services for one of the programs that was Community Development Block Grant Funds to low or moderate income individuals to do improvements to their homes. This particular program had basically to different criteria. If they were at 50% or below of the median income they would receive a grant. If they were above 50% of the median income it would be a 0% loan. In this case the income of the individual was at 53%, therefore, she just missed out on getting a grant and got a 0% interest loan. The loan amount was about \$6,000. To date she has a balance of about \$3,500. Her payment is approximately \$30/month. This individual, due to poor health, had to retire at an early age and at this point she is just getting a pension and she has high medical bills and has asked for relief and wants the remaining balance of her loan forgiven.

Chairman O'Neil asked do we know how many other people are in that bracket between the 50% and 55% let's say.

Mr. Fleming answered I don't have any idea.

Chairman O'Neil stated my biggest concern is that if we do this for one the floodgates are going to open on this thing.

Mr. Fleming replied at this point the individual is also not receiving Social Security. At the point that she does start receiving Social Security I would think that her situation would improve. One of the suggestions that I had made was that the loan be deferred and basically at the time the property was sold the City could recoup the balance of the loan but the individual wasn't interested in that.

Alderman Smith asked is she disabled or has she put in for Social Security benefits.

Mr. Fleming answered as far as I know she is not mobility impaired. She can basically get around. I don't know what the extent of her medical problems are.

Alderman Smith asked did she apply for Social Security in regards to her health.

Mr. Fleming answered I don't know.

Alderman Smith stated if she has an impairment or something like that they will investigate it and it will be retroactive to the date she applied if she is disabled.

Chairman O'Neil stated Todd I know you don't need to be in the middle of this thing but I am very concerned about the precedent we would be setting here. If we do it for one they are all going to be coming in for different reasons and asking for forgiveness of the loan and the next thing we know we don't have a loan program or a grant program.

Mr. Fleming stated basically this individual is calling me on a weekly basis.

Chairman O'Neil asked where is Neighborhood Housing on this.

Mr. Fleming answered Neighborhood Housing said well she was close to being 50% at the time but she didn't meet the cut off. They are basically going by the criteria that they set-up for the program to operate.

Alderman Shea asked do we have any agency or people in the City who could get information that would be germane to our making this decision like a social worker or somebody of that sort who would be able to validate something so that in the event that the floodgates open we would have some sort of background and our decision wouldn't be a precedent but simply a decision predicated upon the circumstances of the case.

Chairman O'Neil asked is this woman elderly.

Mr. Fleming answered she is recently retired and is below the age of 62. I don't know exactly what her age is. All I know is she is not eligible for Social Security yet.

Alderman Shea asked does she live with anyone else.

Mr. Fleming answered she lives by herself.

Alderman Smith asked what is her status health wise.

Mr. Fleming answered I haven't gotten into the ins and outs of her specific problems. Basically she has provided me with copies of medical bills for the last year. I put together this rough estimate based on what she provided me with, which was her mortgage payments and medical payments.

Chairman O'Neil asked shouldn't Neighborhood Housing be taking this up. They are kind of wiping their hands clean of this and saying it is our problem now.

Mr. Fleming answered basically they are saying that the money is coming back to the City and it is the City that made the loan so it is up to the City to make the decision on whether the loan is to be forgiven.

Alderman Smith asked don't we allocate money to Neighborhood Housing.

Chairman O'Neil answered yes.

Alderman Smith stated and they are putting us in the middle of the situation. I think they should handle it because we allocate a certain amount of money to them for the housing program.

Mr. Maranto stated I would like to interjected here. NHS has a contract with us and they need to comply with the rules and regulations and within those rules and regulations there are certain conditions which take into account what the income is. For them to go in and make a decision contrary to the agreement, they would not be in compliance with our agreement. That is why it is being referred back to us. It is our responsibility. I also want to let you know that this person is an ex City worker as well.

Chairman O'Neil replied that really doesn't matter. If they were at 53% and now they are at 49% what about the person that was at 55% and now...I mean we are opening the doors here that is the problem. How many of these are there in the City?

Mr. Maranto responded I have no idea.

Chairman O'Neil stated we don't know how many loans and how many grants are in the City.

Mr. Maranto replied I have that, yes. We would have to go back and see how many people were on the cusp of that 50% if that is what you are asking.

Chairman O'Neil stated I will make a motion if either of you don't want to.

Mr. Fleming stated I can tell you how many people fit into the category of receiving grants versus 0% interest loans. For the particular program that she was involved with she was the only person who received a loan. The rest of them received a grant for that particular program.

Alderman Shea asked so you are saying that we would be able to justify this because in the category that she was involved with there are no other precedent setting situations.

Mr. Fleming replied I don't know if I can say that or not because there are many different housing rehab programs that were similar. This one was for a specific year and for that specific year she was the only one who received a loan. There were only eight or nine applicants that participated in that program at the time.

Alderman Shea asked is there any confidentiality involved in this. In other words Dan is concerned about a precedent.

Mr. Maranto replied I would think if we were going to look at whether or not we were going to defer this loan she would have to provide information to us. How else would you make a decision?

Alderman Shea responded I am just saying in terms of her then going to the person next door and saying if you do it this way maybe...you are saying there is no one else in this category. You were nodding when he was explaining.

Mr. Maranto replied we have been doing rehab loans for 30 years and we have lots of names in there and potential people who might have been 2% over or whatever and they might come back as well. What is that number exactly? I don't know.

Alderman Shea asked where does this money come from.

Mr. MacKenzie answered these are Federal monies that are channeled through the City and we have to use it for housing.

Alderman Shea moved that the loan be relieved. There was no second.

Alderman O'Neil moved that the request be denied. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion. Chairman O'Neil called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Shea being duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

Petition to discontinue a portion of Beech Street between Whitford Street and Walnut Hill Avenue.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to recommend that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen find that a portion of Beech Street between Whitford Street and Walnut Hill Avenue does not have any public status and does not need to be discontinued, however per RSA 231:46 the existing utilities shall remain in effect as an encumbrance upon the underlying land for so long as they remain in active use.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

Petition to discontinue a portion of Bryant Road.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to refer this petition for discontinuance to the next Road Hearing.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 10 of the agenda:

Petition to discontinue Carleton Street.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to recommend that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen find that Carleton Street, having never been opened, built, nor used for public travel has been released from public servitude pursuant to RSA 231:51, however per RSA 231:46 the existing sewer line and water main shall remain in effect as an encumbrance upon the underlying land for so long as it remains in active use.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 11 of the agenda:

Petition to discontinue a portion of Merrill South Back Street.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to recommend that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen find that Merrill South Back Street, having never been opened, built, nor used for public travel has been released from public servitude pursuant to RSA 231:51.

TABLED ITEM

Presentation by Ron Ludwig, Director of PR&C and the present lease holder of the Derryfield Restaurant regarding the possibility of constructing a new clubhouse at the golf course.

This item remained on the table.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee